

made the first contribution in the shape of the group of Coots, as stated in the Notice, but, according to my recollection, it was the only one during the period of my Keepership, the work on the Catalogue and the increase and care of the *study*-collection occupying the whole of his time.

ALBERT GÜNTHER.

On the Nomenclature of Echinoderms.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Having written in your pages of late on the nomenclature of various Echinoderms, perhaps I may be permitted to express cordial agreement with the paper by Dr. Th. Mortensen in your January number. On two points only would I comment.

Dr. Mortensen does not see the necessity for working out the history of each name, since the proposed decision "is to be made against history." The reason why the adjudicating Committee should have all the facts before it is that a decision made, on the advice of one set of specialists, to escape evils in one group of animals, might lead to worse evils in another group. Hence complaints, wrangling, and further arbitrary decisions.

The important point emphasized by Dr. Mortensen is that the name must be fixed by reference to a genotype; but it will also be necessary to fix the holotype of the genotype. This was made clear by the recent discussion on *Cidaris* in these pages.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. BATHER.

Natural History Museum,
7th Jan., 1910.

Note on the Occurrence of Hippolyte gracilis (Heller) in the British Area. By A. O. WALKER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

When dredging on the *Zostera* banks at Worthing on Sept. 30th last, at a depth of about 6 feet I took two specimens of this Mediterranean species. So far as I know it has not been recorded before in the British Area proper, which does not include the Channel Islands, from which I reported a specimen taken by Mr. James Hornell in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 7, vol. iii. (1899) p. 148. The specimens were associated with *H. varians*, Leach, and are now in the British Museum, where they have also been identified by Dr. W. T. Calman.